

WASHINGTON “ Congressman John W. Olver (D - 1st District) announced today that the Department of Labor has determined that GE Fitchburg workers are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA assistance will allow eligible workers benefits such as: training; a job search and relocation allowance; and health insurance continuation.

Congressman Olver heavily lobbied both Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman, and Governor John Rowe to secure this funding for the workers.

“This is wonderful news for the employees of GE Power Systems. The loss of over 600 jobs has been a tremendous blow to the community, and this assistance will help them through this difficult time.”

The following is the history of the TAA Application process:

- On September 17, 1998, DOL determined that GE Fitchburg was not eligible for TAA.
- On October 30, 1998, the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance (OTAA) received an application from GE Fitchburg.
- OTAA found that the reconsideration was warranted and asked for additional information.
- GE Co. submitted the additional information and entered into the appeal process.
- April 16, 1999, DOL approved GE Co. appeal for Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Other federal funding that was secured to assist the dislocated worker population:

- On May 6, 1998, Congressman Olver secured \$75,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding.
 - In December of 1998, Congressman Olver secured \$597,101 from the Department of Energy for a loan guarantee.
- (More)

Since August of 1998 over 600 GE employees were laid off from the steam turbine plant. With the loss of these jobs, the community has lost a significant source of income.

###